



Washington State Department of Agriculture *Hearing Notice*

For immediate release: Oct. 17, 2003 (03-45)
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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

WSDA slates hearings in Spokane, Yakima and Puyallup for animal feed rules

OLYMPIA – The state Department of Agriculture (WSDA) proposes to change rules that regulate commercial feeds for livestock, poultry and fish, as well as pet foods. The proposal would require labels to list additional nutritional values and to identify the type of animal the feed is intended for so consumers can choose the product that best meets the needs of their animals. It would also require that a lot identifier be assigned to a commercial feed so that it can be traced from the manufacturer through final distribution. WSDA also proposes to revise rules for animal waste producers even though the department is unaware of any producers doing business in the state.

Public hearings will be held at 6 p.m. at the following locations and dates next week:

- **Spokane:** Oct. 21, Spokane County Cooperative Extension Office, Room 106 E, 222 N Havana St.
- **Yakima:** Oct. 22, WSDA Office, Main Conference Room, 21 N. 1st Ave.
- **Puyallup:** Oct. 23, WSU Research and Extension Center, Puyallup Conference Room, 7612 E. Pioneer Way.

More than 400 facilities are licensed by WSDA to distribute commercial feed in this state. In addition, some 3,500 pet food products are registered for sale. As part of WSDA's compliance activities, personnel collect random samples to verify feed products meet the guaranteed nutrient analysis printed on labels. The department works with the Food and Drug Administration to regulate feed producers and educate them about good manufacturing practices. Staff also enforces federal regulations to prevent animal diseases.

"Our proposed rules safeguard public and animal health, provide consumer and industry protections, and facilitate interstate commerce," said Neil Lanning, WSDA feed specialist. "The goal is for the agricultural community to use safe, effective, and useful feeds, and for buyers to have adequate information to make such purchases."

An advisory committee assisted staff with writing the draft rules to closely resemble model feed regulations developed by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). AAFCO provides a mechanism for implementing uniform and equitable laws, regulations, standards and enforcement policies for regulating the manufacture, distribution, and sale of animal feeds.

For a copy of the proposed rules, call Laurie Mauerman at (360) 902-2012 or access the WSDA Web site at <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalFeed/Rulemaking/default.htm>. Send written comments to: Washington State Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Management Division, P.O. Box 42589, Olympia, WA 98504-2589. Comments may also be sent by fax to (360) 902-2093, or by e-mail to lmauerman@agr.wa.gov. The deadline for comments is 5 p.m. Oct. 24. The new rules will go into effect July 1, 2004, when the next licensing cycle begins.

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